

Applicants respectfully traverse the Election Requirement. It would appear that the search for the species identified by the Examiner would be coextensive or at least significantly overlap. That is, if the Examiner were to perform a search for the embodiment of Species I, there would not appear to be a serious burden in continuing the examination of the other embodiments, especially since all of the claims are directed to waterproof electrical connectors having:

a base housing having a plurality of terminal chambers and an internal space defined by a perimeter wall located behind the plurality of terminal chambers;

a rear cover configured to engage with the base housing to seal the internal space, the rear cover having a plurality of thru-holes;

a flexible plug that extends from an inner surface of the rear cover, the flexible plug being configured to be inserted into the internal space, and including ribs formed on an outer peripheral surface of the flexible plug; and

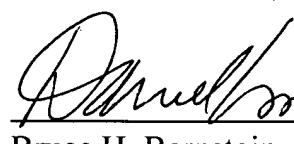
the flexible plug having a plurality of thru-holes, the rear cover thru-holes and the flexible plug thru-holes being configured to concentrically align with the plurality of terminal chambers.

Accordingly, it is clear that all of the claims are directed to waterproof electrical connectors having a substantial amount of commonly recited structure. Because the search of all of the species would clearly be coextensive, it would not appear to be a serious burden on the Examiner to examine all of the claims in this application. For this reason, and consistent with office policy as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the Election Requirement.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the Election Requirement in this application is improper and it is respectfully requested that it be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daiki NAGAYASU et al.



Reg. No. 48,214

Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, Virginia 20191  
(703) 716-1191